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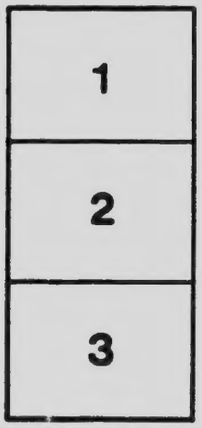

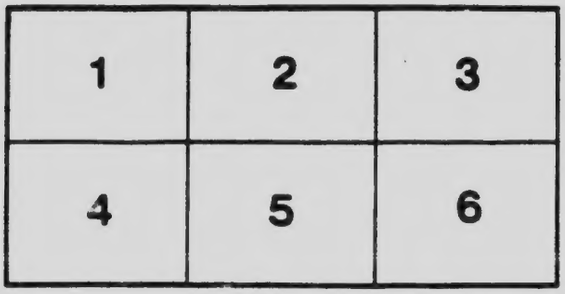

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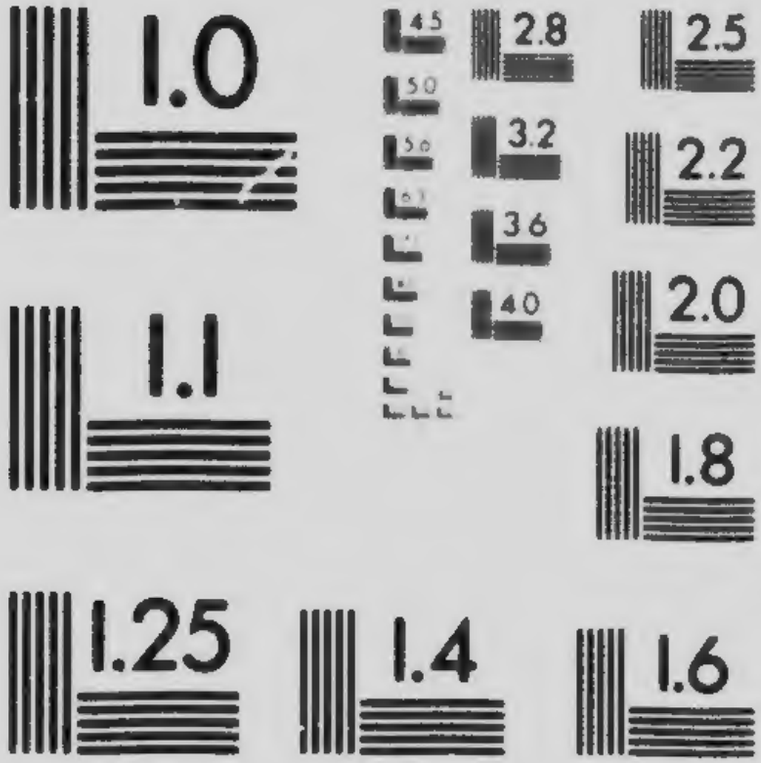

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CANADIAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Branch of the Commissioner of Agriculture and Dairying

EXTENSION OF MARKETS DIVISION

JAS. W. ROBERTSON
Commissioner of Agriculture and Dairying

W. W. MOORE
Chief, Markets Division

SOME NOTES

ON THE

CANADIAN TRADE IN FOOD PRODUCTS, &c.

WITH

BERMUDA AND JAMAICA

BULLETIN No. 21

(New Series)

PUBLISHED BY DIRECTION OF THE HONOURABLE SYDNEY A. FISHER, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, OTTAWA

JULY, 1904

OTTAWA, July 1, 1904.

To the Honourable
The Minister of Agriculture.

SIR,—I beg to transmit herewith 'Some Notes on the Canadian Trade in Food Products, &c., with Bermuda and Jamaica,' by J. A. Ruddick, Chief of the Dairy Division, and to recommend that they be printed in bulletin form for distribution.

I have the honour to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,

JAS. W. ROBERTSON,
Commissioner of Agriculture and Dairying.

SOME NOTES ON THE CANADIAN TRADE IN FOOD PRODUCTS, &c., WITH BERMUDA AND JAMAICA.

By J. A. Ruddick, *Chief of Dairy Division.*

GENERAL.

The information herein contained was gathered by the writer while on a visit to Bermuda and Jamaica in February and March last.

On that occasion I had many opportunities of meeting importers, dealers, consumers and officials, and of learning from them the requirements of their trade, and the difficulties, if any, which stand in the way of Canada getting a larger share of it.

At the outset I would say that every person whom I interviewed expressed a decided preference for trading with Canada, providing the terms and facilities offered are equal to those that may be obtained elsewhere.

Very little complaint was heard concerning the quality of Canadian products. It was freely stated that in some lines the Canadian article, by its superior quality, was calculated to secure the bulk of the business if properly pushed. This seems to be especially true of butter and cheese, the trade in which has been so well handled by one or two Nova Scotia firms that their brands now have a leading place in the competition with Danish and Irish butter, and cheese from the United States.

Practically all the butter is required to be put up in hermetically sealed tins.

In conversation with importers, I was able to acquaint them with available sources of supply which they had not heard of, and to correct some misconceptions of Canadian products. For instance, I noticed in some of the shops white cheese in American style boxes, marked 'English cheese.' Knowing that English cheese are not put up in the round package used in Canada and the United States, I soon found out that the cheese was purchased in the States in the belief that all Canadian cheese was coloured, an assumption which it was very easy to correct.

Butter substitutes (oleomargarine, &c.) are sold freely and without restriction, and not always under their proper names, so that there was some advantage to be gained in advertising the fact that Canadian dairy products are absolutely pure, and that the manufacture or sale of butter substitutes is prohibited by Canadian law.

No cereals are grown in Bermuda and Jamaica, except a limited amount of corn in the latter island, and the trade in cereal foods and flour might be largely increased. It must be recorded that the flour sent to Jamaica has not always given satisfaction. Irregularity in grade was much complained of. The demand is for a second grade of flour.

The tables on pages 7 and 10 show that both Bermuda and Jamaica get a large proportion of their total imports from the United States. The merchants attribute this fact to better shipping facilities from American ports, and the promptness with which orders can be filled, rather than to a preference for American goods. The following extracts from the Jamaica *Daily Telegraph* will be of interest in this connection:—

* * * * * * * *

'There is not the slightest doubt that many of the foodstuffs which are imported into this colony from the United States are of Canadian origin; but owing to the fact

that they are ordered in the United States, and despatched from there to here, they pass in the local market as American goods. Vice versa, a considerable proportion of the exports from Jamaica find their way, through the United States, into Canada; and the short passages through American territory are quite sufficient to conceal the great volume of trade carried on between this colony and the Dominion.'

* * * * * * * *

'But a direct trade, or rather the extension of the present direct trade, is impossible until a faster and more frequent steamship communication is established between Kingston and either St. John, New Brunswick, or Halifax, Nova Scotia.'

* * * * * * * *

'There is not the slightest doubt that Canada is one of the coming great countries of the world. There is equally little doubt that, just in proportion to the increase of its population, it will require a vastly increased quantity of tropical products. And no intelligent man in this colony will venture to question the assertion that Canada is as capable of supplying our population with foodstuffs, clothing, footwear and building materials as the United States. Under the circumstances, it seems to us that the establishment of a better steamship service is a matter of prime importance to the Dominion and to Jamaica.'

The steamship service between the maritime provinces and Jamaica and Cuba has lately been increased by the opening of the Canada-Jamaica line, and it is expected that this service will have the effect of increasing the trade very materially.

A good many complaints were heard concerning the carelessness on the part of shippers, or something which often resulted in Canadian consignments, via New York, arriving at their destination unaccompanied by the necessary documents to release them from the customs, or the control of the bank. One bank manager, who made a strong point of this, said it was because the shippers did not employ brokers at New York to look after their shipments.

BERMUDA.

The voyage to Bermuda was made from New York by the SS 'Trinidad' of the Quebec Steamship Co.'s Line. It takes about 50 hours in good weather. We were exceptionally fortunate in this respect, and the comparatively rapid change from severe cold weather to a temperature of 60-70 degrees was an agreeable experience.

Bermuda consists of several islands lying close together, the principal ones being connected with bridges. The total area is 12,366 acres, or about 19 square miles.

The industries of Bermuda are wholly agricultural. The Colonial Secretary in his report, under the head of 'Manufactures,' gives one 'Ice Factory' and one 'Arrowroot Factory.'

Bermuda is an important British naval and military station. A large number of men are constantly employed at H. M. dockyard, and in addition to the coast guard ships which are always there, the fleet of the North American and West India station spends a part of each year at Bermuda. The military establishment consists usually of two line regiments and detachments from the Royal Engineers and Royal Artillery.

POPULATION.

The Registrar-General estimates that the total resident civilian population at the end of 1902 consisted of 19,030 persons. The estimated total population, including the naval and military establishments, was 23,794 persons.

PRODUCTS.

The cultivated area of Bermuda is only 2,636 acres, and the whole of this is devoted to what would be called market gardening in Canada. No cereals or grasses are grown. The principal crops are onions, potatoes, tomatoes and other vegetables. The Bermuda Easter Lily is extensively grown. Potatoes are grown during the winter months and sold largely in New York as "new potatoes." Poles for local use are mostly imported from Nova Scotia. There is now no timber suitable for building or kindred purposes. A considerable quantity of material is required for vegetable crates.

It will be seen, therefore, that the Bermudians must import nearly everything required except vegetables.

IMPORTS.

The latest statistics of imports are given in the following tables:

Table I.

Year	Total	United Kingdom	Canada	Other British Colonies	United States of America	Other Countries.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1898	351,274	104,974	30,511	7,346	204,308	3,905
1899	394,388	104,408	33,119	7,278	246,447	3,176
1900	397,136	104,009	31,488	9,952	249,729	978
1901	500,716	142,911	41,167	11,399	296,935	8,202
1902	546,141	155,675	52,110	13,523	321,487	3,346

Table II.

The principal imports from Canada were :—

Article	Value 1902	Value 1901
	£	£
Box material	2,001	3,673
Butter	7,169	3,589
Fish	3,985	2,901
Flour	3,266	1,755
Horses	1,087	2,400
Bran	2,157	1,279
Cheese	2,404	1,482
Hay	2,188	1,189
Leather manufactures	1,313	2,230
Oats	6,139	3,345
Lumber	651	1,270
Potatoes	4,681	4,705
Paper	619	1,096

Table III.

The principal imports from the United States were :—

Article	Value. 1902.	Value. 1901.
	£	£
Beef	27,371	11,728
Bran	3,904	4,457
Butter	11,525	12,368
Coal	5,183	12,495
Cotton goods	10,636	10,345
Fertilizers	6,357	5,797
Fancy goods	2,341	2,877
Flour	22,024	18,242
Canned fruit and meats	8,117	7,164
Groceries	9,224	6,760
Hardware	5,493	6,122
Leather manufactures	13,17[illegible]	11,725
Lumber	8,650	9,643
Kerosene oil	7,272	6,771
Oats	5,251	7,008
Provisions	23,923	21,314
Oxen and cows	36,926	36,121
Sheep	3,169	3,419
Sugar	4,797	5,827
Tobacco	2,812	1,827

The importations of butter, cheese, hay, flour, &c., from Canada have been increased since 1902.

CUSTOMS TARIFF.

The duty on all goods likely to be imported from Canada is five per cent *ad valorem*.

STEAMSHIP SERVICES.

The Quebec Steamship Company maintain a regular service between New York and Bermuda which varies from a steamer every five days to once a fortnight, according to the season of the year. The agents are A. E. Outerbridge & Co., 39 Broadway, New York, and J. A. Conyers, Hamilton, Bermuda.

The Pickford & Black Steamship Company have the following services :—

The SS. 'Beta' leaves Halifax, N.S., for Bermuda, Turk Islands and Jamaica on the 15th of each month. This ship has refrigerated space.

The steamers of the British West Indies & Demerara Service leave St. John, N.B., every 14 days, calling at Halifax, Bermuda and the Windward Islands. Agents :—

Pickford & Black, managing owners, Halifax, N.S.
Schofield & Co., St. John, N.B.
Robert Reford & Co., Montreal, Que.
W. T. James & Co., Bermuda.

GENERAL.

Cable communication is maintained by the Halifax & Bermuda Cable Company, and by the Direct West India Cable Company, via Jamaica and the Turk Islands.

Banking facilities are afforded by the Bank of Bermuda and N. T. Butterfield & Son, Hamilton.

The following are the principal importers and dealers in agricultural products :—
H. C. Outerbridge, hay grain, lumber, Hamilton, Bermuda.
Pearman, Watlington & Co., commission merchants, Hamilton, Bermuda.
W. T. James & Co., groceries and provisions, Hamilton, Bermuda.
B. Walker & Co., produce, lumber, &c., Hamilton, Bermuda.
Gosling Bros., provisions, Hamilton, Bermuda.

TURK AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

Going from Bermuda to Jamaica the steamer calls at Grand Turk, Turk Islands. The Turk and Caicos group consists of several small islands, attached to Jamaica for administrative purposes, which lie about 400 miles north-east of that island. The total population in 1901 was 342 whites, and 18,581 coloured persons and blacks.

The principal industry is salt raking. There are altogether 593 acres of salt ponds, shallow basins from which the sea water is evaporated to produce an average yield of about 4,000 bushels of salt per acre annually.

Practically everything required by the inhabitants must be imported, so that the trade amounts to considerable.

JAMAICA.

Jamaica is the third largest of the West Indian Islands, being exceeded in size only by Cuba and Santo Domingo. The total area is said to be 4,207 square miles. The Jamaica Handbook gives the estimated total population on March 31st, 1903, as 785,434, of which number only about 15,000 are whites.

PRODUCTS.

The principal products of Jamaica are sugar, rum, fruit (bananas and oranges), cocoanuts, pimento, coffee, dye woods, ginger, &c.

A terrific hurricane swept over the whole island on August 11th, 1903, causing great damage to crops, and the loss of many lives. Practically all the banana plantations were temporarily ruined, and a large percentage of the cocoanut trees were destroyed. A new banana plant does not carry fruit inside of twelve or fourteen months, and a cocoanut tree is said to take seven years to come into bearing. The temporary injury to the general trade of the colony will be realized from the fact that 14,184,375 bunches of bananas, valued at £1,134,750, were exported during the year ending March 31st, 1903.

IMPORTS.

Table showing the chief items of goods imported into Jamaica during the year ending March 31st, 1903 :—

	Quantity.	Value. £	s.	d.
Bacon . . . . . lbs.	43,996	1,466	10	8
Beef, wet salted . . . . . brls.	5,311	16,663	9	0
Bread or biscuits. . . . . lbs.	2,575,518	18,350	11	5
Butter, butterine and butter substitutes . . . . . lbs.	813,374	23,205	10	5
Cattle . . . . . head	43	1,141	0	0

		Quantity.	Value. £	s.	d.
Cheese	lbs.	201,853	5,887	7	11
Corn	bush.	191,716	31,158	18	8
Fish		.....	163,529	2	11
Flour (wheat)	brls.	167,991	151,192	14	6
Hams	lbs.	173,377	5,779	4	8
Lard	lbs.	96,186	1,803	9	9
Meal, not wheat	brls.	19,715	13,758	7	9
Milk, condensed	cases	46,366	28,235	18	5
Oats	bush.	51,069	8,085	19	4
Peas and beans	bush.	14,338	8,304	3	9
Pork, wet salted	brls.	5,131	20,846	3	1
Sheep		1,403	2,218	14	0
Shooks		.....	35,448	17	3
Soap	lbs.	4,847,244	38,172	0	9
Lumber, white pine	feet	2,511,416	14,063	18	7
Lumber, pitch pine	feet	5,004,884	24,023	8	8
Shingles		.....	2,381	3	0
Staves		.....	1,115	5	5

The total value of the imports into the colony in the year ending March 31st, 1903, was £2,029,495.

EXTRACT FROM THE JAMAICA HANDBOOK FOR 1904.

'Taking the whole of the imports the island's custom was distributed in each of the last three years in the following proportions, viz. :—

	1902-03.	1901-02.	1900-01.
United Kingdom	50'1	46'8	45'2
United States	40'3	43'3	43'4
Canada	6'9	7'0	8'6
Other countries	2'7	2'9	2'8'

The United Kingdom has secured an increase of trade to the disadvantage of Canada by the inauguration of the Imperial Direct West India Mail Service.

CUSTOMS DUTIES.

The following information, compiled from the schedule of customs duties, will be of interest to intending shippers:—

	£	s.	d.
Animals alive—Horned stock, per head	2	0	0
Horses, mares, geldings and mules, per head	3	0	0
Asses, per head	1	0	0
Sheep, goats and swine, per head	0	10	0
Bacon, per lb.	0	0	2
Barley (not Pearl barley), per bushel	0	0	4
Beans and pease, including split pease, per bushel	0	1	0
Beef, wet, salted or cured, per barrel of 200 lbs.	0	15	0
Beef, smoked or dried, per lb.	0	0	2
Bread and biscuits, viz.—Pilot bread, water and oyster crackers, soda biscuits and butter biscuits, per lb.	0	0	0½
Butter and butter substitutes, per lb.	0	0	2
Cheese, per lb.	0	0	2

	£	s.	d.
Corn, Indian, per bushel	0	0	4
Fish—Dried or salted, per 100 lbs	0	3	6
Smoked, not otherwise enumerated or described, per lb	0	0	0½
Herrings, smoked, per lb	0	0	0¼
Salmon, smoked, per lb	0	0	2
Salmon, wet or salted, per barrel of 200 lbs	0	10	6
Alewives, herrings, mackerels and pickled, unenumerated, per barrel of 200 lbs	0	4	0
Flour (wheat), per barrel of 196 lbs	0	8	0
Hams, per lb	0	0	2
Lard, per lb	0	0	1
Meal, not wheat, per barrel of 196 lbs	0	2	0
Meat, salted or cured, per barrel of 200 lbs	0	15	0
Milk, condensed (weight of the tin to be included in the weight for duty) per lb	0	0	0½
Oats, per bushel	0	0	4
Pork, wet salted or cured, per barrel of 200 lbs	0	15	0
Potatoes, per barrel of 180 lbs	0	1	6
Soap, common, brown, yellow, or blue mottled, and all other laundry soaps, per 100 lbs	0	5	6
Tongues, salted or cured, per barrel of 200 lbs	0	15	0
Wheat, per bushel	0	0	6
Wood, per 1,000 feet of pitch pine, white pine lumber, or other lumber, in rough or sawn, by superficial measurement of 1 inch thick	0	9	0
Wood, per 1,000 feet of pitch pine, white pine, or other lumber, planed, smoothed, grooved or tongued, ceiling and flooring boards, clinker or beaded boards, but not otherwise manufactured, by superficial measurement of 1 inch	0	14	0
Shingles, Cypress, more than 12 inches in length, per thousand	0	6	0

On all goods not enumerated in this schedule or not in the free list, an *ad valorem* duty at the rate of 16⅔ per cent.

FREE LIST.

Agricultural implements, namely, ploughs, harrows, cultivators, horse hoes, hoes, cutlasses, agricultural forks, axes, bill hooks, clod crushers, dibbles, sewing machines, stump extractors.

Printing paper.

Poultry and other birds.

Shooks for tierce, puncheon, hogshead, barrel and cask, and shooks for boxes or crates used in packing native agricultua. produce.

Wood hoops and truss hoops.

Wood staves and headings.

LIVE STOCK.

There is some demand for thoroughbred cattle. A considerable beef-raising industry is growing up in some sections of the country.

CATTLE QUARANTINE.

All cattle and animals imported from a foreign country are examined and inspected by a government inspector, and placed in quarantine for 14 days, except cattle imported from any British possession or from the United States, when the importer declares that they are, and the inspector believes them to be, imported for breeding purposes only, and when on examination they are found to be free from disease.

IMPORTERS AND MERCHANTS.

The following is a partial list of the importers and merchants in Kingston, Jamaica, dealing in provisions, flour, groceries, &c.:—

Fred. L. Meyers & Son.
George & Branday.
Tozer & Co.
Burke, G. E. & Brother.
Williamson Bros.
Crosswell, J. M. & Co.
DeCordova, C. & Co.
MacNish, Limited.

The Jamaica Chamber of Commerce seems to be a live organization. Any person desiring to do so may send catalogues or other information to the secretary to have it placed before the members, and put on file at their headquarters.

STEAMSHIP SERVICE.

Steam communication between Jamaica and the United States and Canadian ports is provided by the following lines:—

The United Fruit Co.—(Passengers and mails only.) Weekly service from Boston and Philadelphia to Port Antonio, Jamaica, and vice versa.

The Hamburg-American Line.—(Atlas Line service.) Passenger and freight service by weekly steamer between New York and Kingston.—Messrs. Pim, Forwood and Kellock, general agents, New York; W. Peploe Forwood, general agent, Kingston, Jamaica.

J. E. Kerr & Company's Line.—Weekly steamer New York to Kingston, and vice versa.

Halifax and West India Steamship Co.—Monthly steamer Halifax to Kingston, Jamaica, and vice versa, calling at Turk Islands and Bermuda.—Pickford & Black, agents, Halifax, N.S.; W. T. James & Co., agents, Bermuda; W. S. Jones, agent, Turk Islands; E. A. H. Haggart, general agent, Kingston, Jamaica.

The Canada-Jamaica Line.—Monthly service between Halifax and Kingston, calling at Santiago de Cuba.—A. G. Jones & Co., agents, Halifax, N.S.; Marsh & Marsh, agents, Toronto, Ont.; George & Branday, agents, Kingston, Jamaica.

CABLE COMMUNICATION.

There are two lines of cables connecting Jamaica with the outer world.

The West India and Panama Telegraph Company operate cables running to Cuba and thence to Key West, in Florida, and to Porto Rico and the Isthmus of Panama.

The Direct West India Cable Company's cables are laid to Bermuda and Halifax, and thence to the United Kingdom,—thus giving a cable line touching on British territory alone.

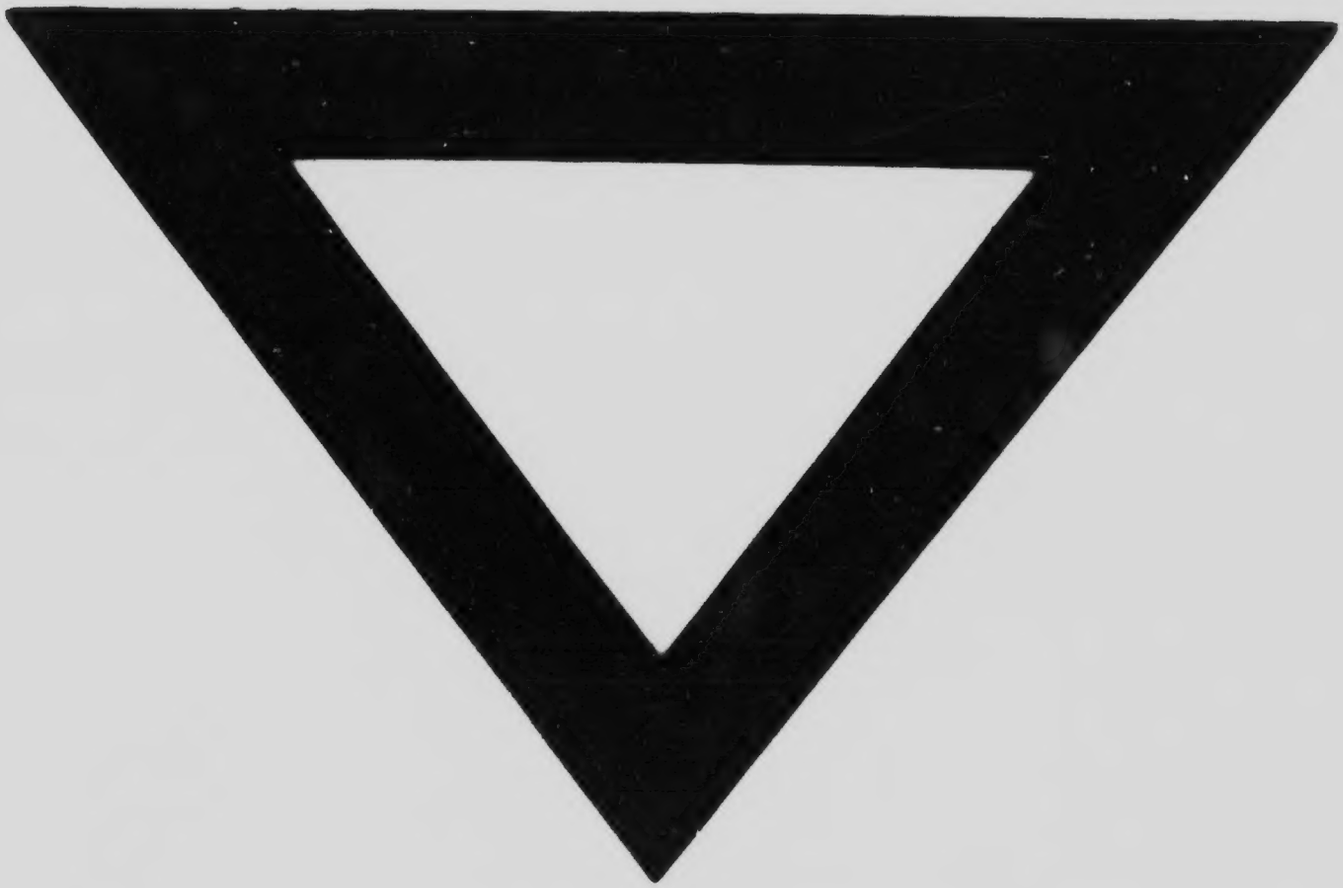
BERMUDA AND JAMAICA AS WINTER RESORTS.

Bermuda has long been popular as a winter resort, but during recent years the number of visitors has grown very much. This is probably due to the enlarged and improved hotel accommodation, which is now first-class in every respect. The indications are that the future will see an ever-increasing crowd of Americans and Canadians seeking a respite from the rigours of a northern winter by taking themselves to these favoured isles.

Until a few years ago Jamaica was handicapped in securing winter visitors by a serious lack of good hotel accommodation. That drawback has been entirely removed, and there are now several good hotels, one of which is claimed to be the finest and best in the West Indies.

The altitude of different localities varies from sea level to over 7,000 feet, with a corresponding variation in climate and temperature. At Kingston (sea level) the maximum temperature is 87 degrees, while the minimum is 70, or a yearly range of only 17 degrees. The maximum and minimum temperature decreases about 1 degree for every 300 feet of elevation, so that at Blue Mountain Peak (7,423 feet above sea-level) the maximum temperature is 71 degrees and the minimum 46.

The tourists one meets are from the United Kingdom, United States and Canada. Their number is bound to grow very largely, as the pleasure to be derived from a few weeks' residence in this land of fruit, spice and perpetual summer becomes better known. This is not the place to enlarge on this feature of Jamaica, but these facts have a bearing on any estimate of the future trade of the islands, because the white population receives a very large proportionate increase by the advent of the winter visitors.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

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